

Good evening all and thank you for this opportunity to speak here at the 3rd forum. Congratulations Dr. June Soomer on your appointment as Chair of UN Permanent Forum for the People of African Descent.

My name is Princewill Ogban, I am the Director of Anti-Racism, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility at the National Gallery of Canada.

As a Black person, my life has been and continues to be impacted by almost all aspects of Anti-Black Racism and that is why I worked with my CEO, senior management team, and all employees including allies to get the National Gallery of Canada become the first Federal Art Institution in Canada to become a signatory to UNDPAD on Canada's Emancipation Day August 1st, 2023. As part of the signatory, we committed to an intent to have a collection of Global African Artworks at the gallery.

I recommend that UN approve a second decade and that UNDPAD include arts as one of the strategies and actions to highlight the history of anti-Black racism and combat it through arts acquisitions and exhibitions across national art institutions and galleries globally. Imagine if the artwork on the Ibo landing which Dr. Natalie Kanem spoke about in her opening speech is acquired and exhibited to highlight the impact of colonization and enslavement. It will tell the story of this horrific incident through arts.

I call on all other art institutions to make similar commitments and grow their acquisition and exhibition of artworks of African Descent within their collections.